

**In the Claims:**

**Applicants respectfully request that the claims of this application be amended so as to read as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image forming section for forming a pattern chart having a plurality of gradation patterns aligned thereon so as to suppress an uneven concentration appearing depending upon a scale of an electrostatic potential difference on the gradation patterns which are adjacent to each other in a sub-scanning direction of image formation,  
an image reading section for reading image information from said pattern chart, and  
an image processing section for adjusting an image forming condition based on the image information;  
wherein said image forming section forms a dummy pattern which is adjacent to a gradation pattern at an end in the sub-scanning direction of said pattern chart and which is equal or close to said end gradation pattern in concentration.
2. (Original) The image forming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said image forming section forms said pattern chart such that a plurality of the gradation patterns have concentrations arranged in a staggered configuration.
3. (Original) The image forming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said image forming section forms said pattern chart such that the gradation patterns adjacent to each other in the sub-scanning direction are brought into contact with each other.

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